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Flood of Filth... A Simple Way to Stop It

THE courts will make the final determination as to whether "John Goldfarb, Please Come Home," a new movie, is fit to be shown. Is it a reflection on a great institution, the University of Notre Dame? Is it, as Supreme Court Justice Henry Clay Greenberg said in granting an injunction against opening the movie, "ugly, vulgar and tawdry?" Is it, as one respected preview critic said, "...one long leer?" These questions, raised about one movie, have put into sharp focus a greater problem—the flood of filth that is inundating us all. In books, magazines, movies, on TV and the stage—and, we must confess, in some newspapers—the shocking word and the obscene posture are being cashed in with increasing profit. The real price has been degradation of both the young and elders. Suppression of bold ideas is, of course, not a solution. The simple answer is not to buy the books or the tickets... for the curious to resist... for parents to keep kids out of the gutter... for police to deal with the corrupt... for some of our courts to stop torturing the law and settle the issues on what they can read and what they can see.